

# Helping Children Learn to Read

- 🐼 Keep on reading aloud even when children have begun to read to themselves. Then let them read to you and the rest of the family. Have them read you recipes, poems, mail, ads, and jokes. Remember books on tape for trips or busy times.
- 🐼 Talk with your child about the characters and events in stories. Repeat rhymes and funny sounds. Discuss the pictures. Discuss the story. Talk about related events. React. Predict what will happen.
- 🐼 Poems, rhymes, songs, word games, and even nonsense words help children learn letter and sound patterns that help them learn to read.
- 🐼 Word games and word puzzles help children read. (Play without a score or keep a group score so new readers don't always lose.)
- 🐼 Reading together builds family relationships while it builds success with reading.
- 🐼 Have a regular family reading time. Read aloud to younger children. When children are older, everyone can read his or her own book or magazine silently at the same time.
- 🐼 Reduce TV viewing.

Going to the library is a low-cost way to help your children's reading ability. It can also make your children's lives more interesting. Many libraries will issue library cards to children. Even if you don't want to borrow books, the library is an interesting place. As your children change and grow, you can use the library to look at and try out new kinds of books, magazines, and even computer programs. Many libraries also offer activities, programs, and events that will help make reading fun for your children. If reading is fun, children will read more, and if they read more, they will become better readers.

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**MISSOURI STATE LIBRARY**  
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